

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, and 8 to more particularly claim the relationship between the lower end of the abutment portion and the lower ends of the side walls. As now more particularly claimed, the lower end of the abutment portion is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls. As the Examiner will recall, previously the claims only required that the lower end of the abutment portion was located at approximately the same height as the lower ends of the side walls. As will be further discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that Stiles, even if Stiles discloses ribs 21, 32, and 34, that these ribs do not have a lower end that is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls. Thus, Stiles does not disclose this feature of Applicant's invention. As will also be further discussed below, because the lower end of these ribs is not located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls, these ribs cannot be considered to be Applicant's claimed "abutment portion". In Applicant's claimed invention, the stoppers are arranged under the keys for abutment of the side walls and the abutment portion. Because in Stiles the ribs do not have an end that is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls, and thus the ribs are located up within the side walls, the ribs cannot be an "abutment portion" because with this configuration they cannot abut any stopper.

In Applicant's claimed invention, as discussed above, the lower end of the abutment portion is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls. This feature can be clearly seen in Applicant's application in at least Figures 4 and 5. Applicant's abutment portion, as disclosed in Applicant's specification at least at page 4 line 22 to page 5 line 23 is used for increasing the surface area of the key for abutment with a stopper. This is why independent claims 1, 6, and 8 claim that the abutment portion has a lower end located at the same height as lower ends of the side walls and that the stoppers, therefore, abut the side walls and the abutment portion. Thus, this claim language defines that Applicant's abutment portion is for increasing the surface area for abutment

with a stopper. According to this feature, when the key is depressed for pivotal motion, the lower ends of the side walls and the lower end of the abutment portion are simultaneously brought into abutment with the associated stopper provided thereunder, thereby to obtain the advantages as discussed in the specification at least at the cite provided above.

Applicant respectfully submits that Stiles' ribs 21, 32, and 34 do not have a lower end that is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls because Stiles' ribs are not used for abutment. Rather, Stiles' ribs are used for reinforcement and securing of the bushings 22 and 33. Stiles discloses that "[r]igidity is provided in the molded plastic cap portions [of the keys] by means of a plurality of intersecting ribs formed within the hollow portion of the cap, to effectively form a support therein." (emphasis added). "Molded plastic bushings for engagement with positioning pins on the keybed may be secured to the ribs formed in the hollow portions of the key fronts. In this manner, the ribs secure the bushing in place and at the same time give the key fronts the necessary rigidity." (emphasis added). See col. 2, lines 30-40.

These ribs and bushings of Stiles can be clearly seen in Figures 2-5, particularly, as noted by the Examiner. As can be clearly seen in Figures 2 and 3, ribs 21 clearly do not have a lower end located at the same height as lower ends of the side walls 19. As can also be seen in Figures 4 and 5, ribs 32 and 34 also do not have a lower end located at the same height as lower ends of the side walls. Each lower end of the ribs 21, 32, and 34 is located higher than the lower ends of the side walls 19. Again, there is no need in Stiles for Applicant's claimed relationship because the ribs in Stiles are not "abutment portions". Stiles' reinforcing ribs 21, 32, and 34 are not for the purpose of increasing an abutment surface area at the lower ends of the side walls of the keys. They do not abut any stopper. They are used for reinforcement and for securing of the guide bushings in place. The guide bushings engage with guide pins 23 in the keybed 9, as can be seen in Figure 1. Thus, the ribs do not have a lower end located at the same height as lower ends of the side walls.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no disclosure in Stiles that keyed 9 discloses Applicant's claimed "stoppers". In Applicant's claimed invention, the stoppers are arranged under the keys for *abutment* of the side walls and the abutment portion. In Stiles, there is no disclosure that keyed 9 abuts any structure. All that is disclosed is that keyed 9 includes a guide pin 23 that is received in guide bushings 22 and 33. The guide pins and bushings are merely used to hold the key properly aligned on the keybed. In fact, in Stiles, as disclosed at col. 3, lines 16-21, the keys' side walls 19 have ramped edges as shown at 24 in Figures 2 and 3, such that the keys 12 may only be depressed to an extent wherein the upper parts of the side walls of the adjacent keys are exposed. Thus, Stiles provides no disclosure for keyed 9 abutting any structure of the keys. It merely includes a guide pin that is received in a guide bushing.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 6, and 8, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Stiles. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 8, and dependent claim 3, are allowable for at least the additional reason that even if there is any way that the Examiner can interpret ribs 21, 32, or 34 as being an abutment portion as claimed and as argued above, Stiles does not disclose the claimed features of Applicant's invention where the abutment portion is formed by at least one plate-shaped rib having a lower surface extending along a plane including lower end faces of the side walls and where the lower surface includes a largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib. In the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not particularly argued where these features can be found in Stiles. Applicant has carefully studied Figures 2, 4, and 5 regarding ribs 21, 32, and 34 and has not found these features disclosed in Stiles.

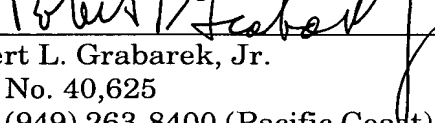
Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 1-10 being allowable. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

As stated above, this paper should be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 056272.52748US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 4, 2006

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12/04/2006
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